## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1.      (Currently amended)  A method for ~~diagnosing the likelihood and severity of autoimmune disease~~ distinguishing possible autoimmunity from possible cardiovascular disease with autoimmune disease in a patient, comprising the steps of:

        a)      determining a level of a first set of antibodies directed against a plurality of different antigens, ~~for autoimmune disease~~ and/or corresponding recombinant antigens or synthetic peptides said first set of antibodies being associated with cardiovascular disease in a sample from said patient; and

        b)      determining a level of a second set of antibodies directed against a plurality of different antigens and/or corresponding recombinant antigens or synthetic peptides, said second set of antibodies being associated with autoimmune disease in a sample from said patient; and

        ~~b)~~ c)      comparing the level of antibodies determined in ~~step~~ steps a) and b) with normal levels of said antibodies, wherein

        ~~normal levels of each of said~~ sets of ~~plurality of autoantigen antibodies for autoimmune disease indicate optimal conditions; and~~

        higher than normal levels of any of both the first set and second set of said plurality of ~~autoantigen~~ antibodies or the first set, but not the second set of said plurality of antibodies ~~for autoimmune disease~~ indicate ~~ongoing pathology or prediction of early pathogenic reaction for autoimmune disease~~ the presence or possibility of autoimmune disease and cardiovascular disease; and

        higher than normal levels of the second set , but not the first set, of said plurality of antibodies indicates the presence or possibility of autoimmune disease.

2.      (Original)      The method according to Claim 1, wherein the autoantigen for autoimmune disease is selected from the group consisting of lupus peptides, arthritis peptides, platelet glycoprotein, and immune complexes.

3.      (Original)      The method according to Claim 1, wherein determining the level of antibodies in steps a) and b) is accomplished using an immunoassay.

4.     (Original)     The method according to Claim 3, wherein the immunoassay is an ELISA test.

5.     (Original)     The method according to Claim 1, wherein the antibodies in steps a) and b) is measured from saliva.

6.     (Original)     The method according to Claim 5, wherein the measured antibodies are IgA.

7.     (Previously presented)     The method according to Claim 1, wherein the measured antibodies in steps a) and b) is measured from serum.

8.     (Previously presented)     The method according to Claim 7, wherein the measured antibodies are selected from the group consisting of IgM, IgG, and IgA.

9.     (Previously presented)     The method according to Claim 1, wherein the autoimmune disease is lupus or arthritis.

10.     (Currently amended)  The method according to Claim 9, wherein the autoimmune disease is lupus and wherein the antibodies can bind to SEQ ID NO:5 or SEQ ID NO:6.

11.     (Currently amended)  The method according to Claim 9, wherein the autoimmune disease is arthritis and wherein the antibodies can bind to SEQ ID NO:7.

12.     (New) The method according to Claim 1, wherein the autoantigen for cardiovascular disease is selected from the group consisting of myosin antibody, oxidized LDL, heat shock protein-60 antibody, and β-2 glycoprotein-1 antibody.